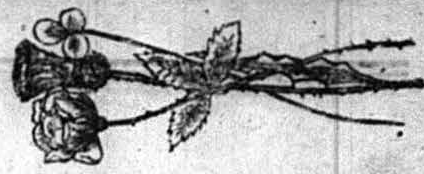


THE COLONIST.



Vol. II.

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ST. JOHN'S, N. F., TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 1887.

Single Copies—One Cent.

No. 81

BY TELEGRAPH.

Hyde Park Demonstrations.

THE LARGEST EVER SEEN IN LONDON.

A Yankee Schooner Chased

A DROUGHT IN TEXAS.

HALIFAX, N.S., April 12.

The Hyde Park demonstration against the coercion bill was the largest ever held in London. The socialist leader, Burns, declared that the English people were ready to assist the Irish peasants to revolt. Speeches were made from fourteen platforms.

The Dominion cruiser *Vigilant* chased a Yankee fisherman from New Brunswick waters.

A drought prevails in Texas. Cattle are dying from its effects.

Special to the Colonist.

THE STEAMER "LEOPARD" LOADED.

CAPE RAY, to-day.

Wind N.W., strong and cold, not much ice to be seen. Steamer *Leopard* passed east at 4.30 p.m. yesterday, loaded.

OUR ADVERTISING PATRONS.

Auction—hams, shoulders, &c. J. M. Lynch
A cottage to let. James B. Slater
Business notice. Nutting S. Fraser
Dories and coal for sale. S. March & Sons
Positively dead bargains. James J. Collins
Fresh sausages. Geo. E. Kearns
Wanted—a general servant. Mrs. Fawcett
Wanted—sitting and bed room. Geo. A. Hutchings
Wanted—a young girl. apply at this office
Terra Nova marble works. John Skinner

AUCTION SALES.

POSTPONED SALE.

To-morrow (WEDNESDAY), at 11 o'clock,

By J. M. LYNCH,

At his Room, Beck's Cove,

12 BONELESS HAMS, 5 SHOULDERS,

10 TURKEYS, 5 tubs Oleo-choice, 2

boxes Cheese, 4 pcs Cheese, 5 pcs Bacon, 10 boxes

smoked Herring, 2 brls shore herring 2 brls Hocks,

new and second-hand Furniture, consisting of—

Chairs, Tables, iron and wood Bedsteads, 1 child's

Bedstead, 1 child's Cot, a lot of Pictures, 1 Chef-

fonier, 1 Wash-stand, 2 Dining Tables, 2 Rockers,

single and double-breast Tweeds, 2 dozen Knife

and Forks, 2 doz Teaspoons, a lot of Cloths, 3 doz

Vests, 3 pairs Pants, 3 ladies' Jackets, 1 lady's

Ulster, 40 pcs Room-paper, 6 mens' Singlets, 3 doz

reels Sewing Cotton, pound Calicoes—in 2 & 3

lbs bbls, 12 prs mens' Boots, 2 Clocks, lot Ribbons

and Binding. ap12

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

TO LET.

South - Bank - Cottage,

Situate on Southside Waterford Bridge.

River—N-ar Syme's Bridge.

Contains 8 Rooms.

Apply to JAMES B. SLATER,

ap12,tf 15, Water Street.

NUTTING S. FRASER,

M.B. & C.M., Edin.; M.R.C.S., Eng.

Office: 290 Duckworth-street

(Head of McBride's Hill.)

Office hours: 9 to 11 a.m.; 2 to 4 p.m.,

and 7 to 8 p.m.

Residence—Circular Road.

ap12,2w,3w,w&s

ON SALE BY

S. MARCH & SONS.

5 Trawl Dories—new

6 Hand-line Dories—new

100 Dory Oars—Ash

Second-hand Dories

1 Spar, with Rigging—

(Suitable for a craft of 60 tons register.)

1 Ships' Jolly Boat

250 tons North Sydney Coal

100 tons Glace Bay Coal

100 tons Welsh Steam Coal

50 tons American Anthracite

CHEAP FOR CASH.

ap12,3f,4f,t,h&s

WANTED.

For a Single Gentleman

{To arrive per Nova Scotian,

{due about the 19th instant.

Sitting Room and Bed Room,

with Board and Attendance.

Apply to

GEO. A. HUTCHINGS,

ap12,3f,4f

New Advertisements.

JOHN SKINNER,

DEALER IN—

Italian and American Marble & Soapstone.



Cement and Plaster Paris on Retail. See our Show-Room.

TERRA NOVA MARBLE WORKS,

Opposite Star of the Sea Hall, Duckworth-street, St. John's, Nfld.

ap 2,3i,w,t,june

LOOK OUT FOR THE

BONANZA!

ap9,2i,w,fp

Concert--Juvenile Minstrel Troupe.

(Under distinguished patronage of His Excellency Sir George W. and Lady DesVoeux.)

The above Troupe will give a concert in aid

OF THE CATHEDRAL COMPLETION FUND,

—IN THE—

Athenæum Hall, on Easter Tuesday, April 12th.

New Songs! New Jokes!

Reserved Seat Tickets 1s. each; to be had from following members of the Troupe—W. Noel, E. Chapman, J. Moores, S. Simms, W. Udle, H. Cooke, H. McCoubrey, E. Pilot, and from the Secretary. Doors open at 7.15; Admission at door 10 cents. ap4

H. MARRIOT, Secretary.

SAUSAGES!

Fresh
Halifax Sausages

TENPENCE PER POUND.

CEO. E. BEARNS,

ap12,2ifp Water Street, near Job's.

WANTED.

A General Servant.

Apply to Mrs. Fawcett, Fort Townshend.

ap12,8ifp

Wanted Immediately.

A YOUNG GIRL, about 15 or 16, for plain house work; one used to working in her own home preferred. Apply at once at the COLONIST office. ap12, f

Positively Dead Bargains!

REAL ESTATE

May be secured at office of the Subscriber.

Quite a large lot of Property, consisting of:

Dwelling Houses, Farms and Building Lots

has just been placed in his hands for sale. The

prices range from £650 to £45. Before pur-

chasing elsewhere, you had better call and learn

all particulars respecting the Property.

JAMES J. COLLINS,

Notary Public and Real Estate Broker.

Office: 6 New Gower Street. ap12,8ifp,t&th

Residence: 11 Princes Street.

Per strmr, Austrian.

New Tweeds.

JUST RECEIVED,

ANOTHER SHIPMENT OF TWEEDS

In Latest Shades and Patterns.

J. ADRAIN,

174 Water Street. ap11,8ifp

SPICED OYSTERS, &c

ON SALE BY

JNO. A. EDENS,

20 dozen Spiced Oysters,

TWO-POUND TINS.....1s. each.

ONE-POUND TINS.....6d. each.

—ALSO,—

20 dozen Mackerel,

ONE-POUND TINS.....6d. each.

ap1,3i,fp

A BALL!

(Under the auspices of the Benev't. Irish Society.)

—WILL BE HELD IN—

Saint Patrick's Hall,

ON MONDAY, APRIL 18th.

TICKETS:

Double.....15s.

Gent's single tickets.....12s. 6d.

Lady's single tickets.....6s. 6d.

Tickets may be had from the following members of the committee:—H. Meagher (chairman), Jas. E. Kent, E. P. Morris, John Fox, F. J. Morris, Jno. Henderson, Jno. Harris, Philip Ryan, John Connors, Thos. Lamb, Michael Dooley, Garrett Byrne, Richard Clancey, Richard Devereaux, John Keating, or

mar30,3i,fp,ap11&16

JOHN P. KENT,

Sec'y of Com.

NOW LANDING.

500 barrels Sup. Extra (Welcome.)

250 barrels Extra (Silverdust).

200 Packages Choice

CANADIAN BUTTER

SHEA & CO.

ap11,8ifp

ON SALE.

By John Steer,

One Pitch Pine Balk,

A lot 1-inch Spruce Board—cheap

One Second-hand Chain—1-inch

A lot of Oil Casks—cheap.

JOHN STEER.

LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

FRIDAY, April 1.

(continued.)

Mr. MORINE—The hon. Receiver General misrepresents this petition. It contains no prayer for the remission of taxation upon any class of the community, but merely asks that the tariff which presses unduly upon the fishermen of the country be

EQUITABLY READJUSTED.

The complaints made against fishermen for signing the petition is most unfair. Clergymen, who by reason of their education, intelligence and responsible position, are bound to speak the words that their parishioners, through want of influence and education, may be unable to speak themselves. The petition does not, as the hon. Receiver General says it does, ask that duty be imposed upon Canadian fish brought to our shores. It merely asks that duty be imposed upon fish coming from countries which impose duties upon our fish, and to a like amount. Now, Canada does not impose any duty upon our fish; therefore this petition does not ask that duty be imposed here upon Canadian fish. The argument of the hon. gentleman that we cannot tax fish caught on the high seas by British subjects, does not apply to this petition. But in using that argument the hon. gentleman is at variance with the hon. Attorney General, who, in reply to a question put by me, in view of the very difficulty, said that the Bait Bill was to apply to Canada.

Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL—I never said so.

Mr. MORINE—Well, then, you will have to grant licenses to Canadians to take bait. The Bait Bill will then not be worth the paper it is written on, for the Canadians will have nine-tenths of the profit derived from the exclusion of the French from taking bait. The Receiver General said that the increase in the tariff is consequent upon the necessity of relieving the poverty of the people. That is partly true; but the increase is due to

THE MISCALCULATION

of the late acting Receiver General in estimating his revenue for last year. The present Receiver General was correct, I believe, when he pointed out that last year's revenue would fall short of the estimate by \$300,000. The argument that fish cured by Newfoundlanders is Newfoundland fish is very flimsy. Sir, 150 or 200 foreign bankers putting off their catches of small fish which are sent abroad as Newfoundland fish must seriously damage the character of our fish abroad.

Mr. BRADSHAW—I beg to support this petition. Fishermen in this country are taxed upon all the appliances of their trade, whilst in Canada they not only have these appliances of their trade, whilst in Canada they not only have these appliances free of duty, but they get large bounties from the Government. We cannot compete with Americans and Nova Scotians who pay so highly. If something is not done

THE BANK FISHERY MUST FALL.

to the ground. Thousands of quintals of fish, Nova Scotia fish, of bad quality are shipped off as Newfoundland fish, to the detriment of the character of ours. It has been said that if we impose a duty upon Canadian fish landed here, that they would retaliate by imposing a prohibitory duty upon the herring sent to Canada under circumstances of late years that would operate very injuriously upon us, as

OUR HERRING FISHERY

lately has not amounted to anything worth while. Mr. MORRIS—I regret that there should be such a difference of opinion between petitioners and the hon. Receiver General. This petition, sir, deserves support. It is signed by some of the most influential and respected of our fishermen. I have reason to know that it was not signed by them without deliberation. I believe that our fishermen suffer greatly from competition on the one hand and false legislation on the other. They pay, sir, an undue proportion of the taxes. The last year or so, it is true, the duties have been somewhat equalized by the adoption of an *ad valorem* duty; but up till then as much duty was paid, for instance, on a barrel of flour worth £1 as on one worth £2 10s. The

CANADIAN FISHERMEN

receive a drawback equal to or greater than the duties upon their fishing appliances; and in addition receive as bounties yearly \$160,000, which is, I believe, the interest in Canada's share in the fishery award. And, then, can Newfoundlanders, possessing none of these advantages compete with Canadians? The sum of one million dollars was paid us by the Americans for the privilege of fishing in our waters, which shows the value of such a concession. It is the one industry upon which we have to depend, and when our fishermen come to ask for relief, we should give them at least some little consideration. It does not follow because the petition has also been signed by parties not immediately connected with the fishery, that the government should overlook the claims set forth. Such is not as a rule observed in regard to other petitions. Reference has been made to the effect of putting a duty on American fish, but I do not apprehend any danger to our interests in that respect. The Americans are more indebted to us than we are to them. We should also put a duty on Canadian fish, for the importing of such produce into this country looks like the

BRINGING OF COAL TO NEWCASTLE.

It seems strange that whilst we cannot get a market for our fish we find our merchants importing fish from Canada. With these few remarks I have much pleasure in supporting the prayer of the petition, and when we go into committee I shall advocate a change in the tariff so that it may bear equally on the people.

Mr. McGRATH—In rising to support the petition I must say that every one seems to have an axe to grind, so far as these petitions are concerned, for one section of the society wants to have the taxation reduced and another section asks to have it increased. It would be well to have the duties on fishery articles as light as possible; but it will be made in respect to these petitions it is the fishermen who will have to make up for it in some other way.

Mr. MURPHY—I rise to support the very important petition presented by the hon. member for St. John's west, Mr. Scott, on behalf of the fishermen of St. John's. The

IMMENSE IMPORTANCE OF THE PETITION

may be seen at a glance at the highly respectable and influential names which it has at its head. I find there the signatures of the two bishops residing in St. John's, the Revs. Mr. Harvey and Geo. Boyd, Sir W. V. Whiteway, W. H. Whitely, &c., as well as the names of the leading tradesmen, business men and fishermen of our city. A petition so numerous and respectfully signed, demands more from our hands than simple presentation and words of support. It demands that this house take immediate action upon it; whether by committee of the whole, or a select committee to investigate the grievances therein complained of, with an object of remedying them by legislation or otherwise, and if the government do not do this, they will shortly have to answer at the polls for their refusal to comply with the wishes of the fishermen of the country. I was surprised to hear the hon. Receiver General get up from his seat in this house, and comment in such severe terms upon a petition, which, from the names attached to it, the whole country must judge to be a very honest and important one. I now state here that he has misquoted, misrepresented and placed false and misleading constructions upon the language of that petition. The petition does not, as he states, ask this legislature to remove all taxation from the fishermen. It simply asks for an equitable readjustment of the tariff, so that it will bear less heavily upon the fishermen, and I think this a very reasonable request. Neither does the petition ask us to tax Canadian fish sold upon our shores, and destroy our

MONTREAL HERRING MARKETS.

as he has stated. It requests this house to simply tax all fish products coming from countries that tax ours when going in. And if it did ask us to tax Canadian small inferior bank fish, sold on our shores, I doubt very much whether the Dominion government would retaliate by taxing our herring, when I consider the fact that the balance of trade is so much in favor of that country. We buy five times as much from Canada as Canada does from us, and it would be to their loss, and not ours, if such were done. So it may be seen on this point, the hon. Receiver General is somewhat out also, and I think when that hon. gentleman was making those statements he forgot the fact that he was passing a rather severe criticism on the good sense of those gentlemen, both clerical and lay whom I have mentioned above as signing this petition. Again, what I consider the main object of this petition, and I arrive at this opinion from a consideration of its contents and wording, is that the house investigate the grievances specified therein, with a view of finding

SOME SOLUTION

for the remarkably painful set of facts which the petition enumerates. Some few weeks ago the hon. A. W. Harvey and W. B. Grieve, both of whom are well versed in the trade of this country, and feel a deep sympathy for its fishermen, attended a meeting of the fishermen's section of the Home Industries Encouragement Society. The same grievances were laid before those gentlemen as being probably the best commercial representatives of the two branches of our legislature by the fishermen at that meeting, and they advised them to petition the assembly, and that as a result a fishery bureau might be established, and that they believed such an institution would, in a large degree, contribute to the solution of the difficulty. Since then I procured some fishing statistics from the reports of the fishery bureau of the Dominion and the United States and find from those figures the probable reasons of those gentlemen recommending the establishment of such an institution. It is now about twenty years since Canada first made provision for

A FISHERY BUREAU.

and if we look over the returns during that period and the progress made and the scientific results and information obtained, I cannot understand why we should remain another twelve months without such a department connected with the public service of this colony. The value of fishery products has been tripled. Every important river and lake in the dominion is well stocked with fish, and science and art by means of fish ladders and fish ways have brought the salmon and other fish up rivers which without them would be inaccessible. The fisheries are properly protected, for every ten or twenty miles of coast has a warden to look after all violation of fishery laws. This warden is usually a fisherman himself and receives about \$20 a year for keeping his eye around. In this country we have some very good fishery acts on the statute book but they remain there dead letters, such for instance is the law regulating the size of the mesh for traps, which is openly and flagrantly violated. If we had in this country

A FISHERY INSPECTOR

or commissioner, with an overseer stationed in each large district, and under the overseer a number of wardens, we could also carry out all fishery laws and make more useful and necessary fishery enactments for the fishermen. The overseer in each of the electoral districts of the island would be paid \$100 or \$150 a year to look after the wardens in each district, and to send in a report each year to the general commissioner at the head of the bureau.

(continued on fourth page)

P. P. B. Brown

Legislative Proceedings.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, April 5.

The House opened at 3½ o'clock.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON WAYS AND MEANS.

Upon Motion of the Hon Receiver General the House went into Committee of the Whole upon Ways and Means.

Mr. GODDEN in the chair.

HON. RECEIVER GENERAL—(Mr. Donnelly)

—No more disagreeable duty can devolve upon a public official—especially an official connected with the Fiscal Department of Government—than to meet the representatives of the people with such a condition of financial affairs as the result of the past year will compel me to lay before the House. I am constrained to acknowledge that the condition of our financial affairs is far from satisfactory, and it behoves those amongst us who are thoughtful for the future, to seriously consider our present financial status, and the causes that have led to it. The perusal of the following statement, which I will first lay before you, will show the affairs of the Treasury Department, at the close of the year 1886.

CREDIT BALANCES.

Customs' Bonds, outstanding...	147,519.87
Balance due by Newfoundland Railway.....	1,382.00
	\$148,901.87
Balance against the Colony....	496,114.87
	\$645,016.74

DEBIT BALANCES.

Outstanding Warrants.....	\$152,531.62
Outstanding Interest.....	49,087.16
Balance due the Union Bank of Newfoundland.....	173,346.10
Loan to the Colony from Fishery Award Fund, bearing 4 per cent. interest.....	181,854.67
	\$556,819.55
Unexpended Legislative Grants.....	88,197.79
	\$645,016.74

By this Statement it will be seen that there was a balance against the Colony, on the 31st of December last, in the Treasury Department, of \$496,114.87 which has been caused by a decrease of \$200,000 on the Revenue from Customs, and by the large amount necessarily expended in dealing with the wide-spread destitution, that called for Government relief works during the autumn of 1886, and the winter of 1887. As the accounts for this expenditure in Relief works have not all been transmitted from the outposts, I am not in a position to lay before the House the exact amount of expenditure under this head; and though we are sufficiently advanced in the session for the Legislature, to reasonably expect the Receiver General to be prepared with such statements, it will be remembered by those acquainted with the nature and extent of the accounts that the Government were compelled, in the interests of those for whom the work was undertaken, to delay the payment of a moiety of the wages until after the first of January. This delay in the transmission of the accounts from the outposts, and we are not enabled at present to lay the statements before the House, as they will have to appear in the public accounts for the quarter ending, March 31.

The Customs' Revenue for the past year will be seen by the following figures:

	1885.	1886.
Customs' Revenue.....	\$892,281.71	910,735.09
Postal Revenue.....	30,400.00	26,700.00
Crown Lands.....	4,393.38	3,767.78
Licenses.....	4,066.25	4,582.65
Fines and Forfeitures.....	2,305.27	1,107.50
Chalk of the Peace.....		165.55
Central District Court Fees.....		142.50
Sheriff's Fees.....		117.50
Clerk of the Court Fees.....		1,142.95
Registration of Deeds, Northern District.....		413.00
Registration of Deeds, Southern District.....		139.00
Patent Fees.....		62.80
Dog Licenses.....		19.17
Timber Lands.....		437.89
St. John's Hospital Fees.....		6.48
Lunatic Asylum.....		124.00
Block House.....		109.00
Inflatable Oil Store.....		3,461.58
Interest, Account Saint John's Sewerage.....		1,795.00
Harbor Master's Dues & Examiner's Fees.....		25,734.80
Interest on Fishy Award.....		28,599.98
Light Dues.....		5,294.99
Cape Race Light and Steam Fog Whistle Receipts.....		2,928.10
Rent of Dry Dock.....		15,000.00
Repayments.....		7,028.23
	\$1,000,222.40	1,035,624.31
Receipts from Bank of England.....		4,800.00
Receipts, Liabilities Liquidation Act.....		297,700.00
Loan under Act 49, Vic., Cap. 15.....		240,000.00
Loan to the Colony from Fishery Award at 4 per cent. interest.....		181,854.67
		\$1,759,978.99

This statement shows the ordinary receipts from the Customs Tariff, the amount raised under the Liabilities Liquidation Act of last session, the amount of Loan obtained under 49 Vic. Cap 15, and the amount of a temporary loan taken up from the Fishery Award. The principal items of the overdrawn account, which will appear in the Financial Secretary's Statement before the House are the following:—

Relief of the Poor.....	\$23,300.00
Fishery Award.....	8,400.00
Constabulary.....	7,169.99
Telegraph maintenance.....	6,242.49
Coastal Steam.....	4,660.00
Executive Responsibility.....	2,978.42
Ireland's Eye Light House.....	2,224.85
Quarantine Act.....	1,311.72
Legislative Contingencies, 1886.....	1,243.71
G. W. and G.....	1,134.69
Poor Asylum.....	1,056.83
Circuit Courts.....	951.28
Queen's Wharf.....	901.37
Herring Inspection Act.....	859.00
Repairs Imperial Property.....	844.84
Fuel and Light Gov't House.....	718.84
Board of Works' Contingencies.....	774.00

The other items of the overdrawn accounts explain themselves.

It will be observed by the last statement that the expenditure for the Relief of the Poor has exceeded the estimate by \$23,300. This is a very large increase, and well worthy of the serious consideration of this House, especially in connection with the fact that by far the largest amount of our indebtedness this year has been for labour in connection with the relief of the destitute. The second item in the last statement of overdrawn amounts is the sum of \$8,400 paid into Court for alleged services of Sir W. V. Whiteway on the Halifax Fishery Convention. There has been a necessary overdraw of \$7,169.99 on the Constabulary Account, and this is principally owing to a necessary increase in the Force which took place after the estimates were submitted last year. Under the head of Telegraph Maintenance there has been an over expenditure of \$6,242.49. This item has been the result of the expenditure for the maintenance of the new lines of telegraph to the Northward, and it will be observed that these lines have now been in operation for the past twelve months without any return of a pecuniary remunerative character; and, if we are to look for any beneficial results from the establishment of telegraphy to the Northern bays, we must seek for it in some other direction than in direct business receipts. It is to be hoped, however, that some change of a salutary nature may take place, and that those, who were so strong in their advocacy of its establishment, may be induced to avail themselves of the advantages which the Government has, out of the public revenues, placed within their reach. There has been an increase in the expenditure for the Coastal Steam Service, as shown by this overdrawn account of \$4,660.00. The expenditure of this sum was caused by the necessity of despatching the Northern steamer on two extra trips in the autumn, and by a trip made by the "Hercules" with the mails. I will not delay hon. members by an explanation of all the items of this overdrawn account, but I have referred and explained the principal and largest amounts, and shall be happy during the debate to afford any hon. member any information in my possession which he may require in explanation of any item requiring his attention. The accounts are on the table, and any further information required can be obtained from the proper department. The total payments from the Treasury, up to the 31st of December, last were as follows:—

Amount of expenditure as per Financial Secretary's statement.....	\$1,489,839.62
In't on Public Debt.....	\$95,627.82
In't on F'ing Debt.....	16,136.12

Debentures paid off.....	111,763.94
	989.00
	\$1,602,592.56
Customs' expenditure.....	64,070.21
	\$1,666,662.77

The Public Debt of this Colony on the 31st December last, stood, \$2,238,391.72 and included the loan obtained last year under 49 Vic. Cap 15. The public debt as it stands at the present time is less than it was on the 31st December by \$400,032.31. This decrease arises from the appropriation of the earnings of the Savings Bank under 41 Vic. Cap 7 which authorizes the use of these earnings for the reduction of the public debt by the cancellation of the public Debentures held by the Savings Bank. The authority given by law was in this instance used to cancel \$100,032.31 of Government Debentures bearing interest at 5 per cent. In connection with the reduction of the public debt it is well to observe that by the operation of the Act of last year, the indebtedness due the Fishery Award for an amount of \$102,300 borrowed for telegraph extension is no longer a part of the public debt, and the Colony will not in future be under the necessity of voting the interest therefor annually in supply as heretofore. A few years ago a loan \$36,500 was taken up for the purpose general Light House erection. Although specific sums were voted for the erection of particular lighthouses, in most instances the calculations, upon which the loan was based, were necessarily merely approximate estimates. Eight out of the ten lighthouses were built, and the cost exceeded the estimate of the Legislature by \$11,900, which has been a

charge on the general revenue since 1883. There is at the present time a sum of \$17,320 to the credit of the Dry Dock, being an unexpended balance of the money raised for purposes connected therewith. I would suggest that the sum due for over expenditure on the Lighthouse Account should be taken out of this unexpended balance to the credit of the Dry Dock Account, as I believe that all our obligations in connection with the Dry Dock have now been discharged, and it is open to us to deal with the balance to the credit of that account in the manner best suited to the general interests. These are the only figures which I am enabled to lay before the House at present in connection with the financial expenditure of the Colony, as shown by the Treasury Accounts up to the 31st of December of last year, but I hope that before the committee rises, to be in a position to lay a supplementary account of payments made since the first of January, in connection with the relief works, the reason of the delay in the compiling of which I have already explained to the House. Having laid before you as far as I can the expenditure of the past, I would claim your attention while I place before the House the estimates for the present year. In doing so I am compelled, from the very nature of our Government finance, and the uncertainty, involved in estimates based upon indirect taxation obtained from importations which may not come to the country, to follow the precedent of last year in estimating the ordinary expenditure of the present year, leaving all questions of deficit and overdrawn accounts of last year, and since January last, to be dealt with hereafter. I have estimated that the expenditure of the present year will be about \$1,273,654, as follows:—

Estimated Expenditure—1887.

Civil List.....	\$50,186.00
Judicial and Police Departments, including Magistrates and Supplies for Goals.....	136,213.00
Relief of Poor Asylum, Hospitals and Grants to Charitable Societies.....	191,546.00
Roads, Bridges and Ferries.....	125,096.00
Education.....	119,500.00
Customs, including Protection of Revenue, South Coast and Labrador Revenue Cruiser.....	66,886.00
Steam Subsidies.....	141,320.00
Interest on Debenture and Floating Debt.....	129,343.00
Maintenance of General Lights.....	43,000.00
Railway Subsidy.....	45,090.00
Alterations and Repairs Public Buildings and for Fog and Noon Guns.....	15,618.00
Postal Service.....	56,090.00
Legislative Contingencies.....	35,000.00
Special Grants for Public Works.....	36,000.00
Shipbuilding and Home Industries.....	18,000.00
Pensions.....	8,634.00
Printing and Stationery, Postages and Incidentals.....	10,000.00
Land and Geological Surveys.....	8,000.00
Fuel and Light, Public Buildings and for Lighting St. John's and Harbor Grace.....	8,550.00
Maintenance of Telegraph Lines.....	12,000.00
Agricultural Grants.....	2,182.00
Protection Herring Fishery.....	2,500.00
Wolf Act.....	100.00
Board of Health and Quarantine Act.....	1,000.00
Insurance on Public Buildings.....	3,000.00
Barcelona Exhibition.....	5,000.00
Consolidation of Laws.....	2,000.00
Unforeseen Contingencies.....	2,500.00
	\$1,273,654.00

It will be seen by a careful perusal of this estimate that I have included an amount considered necessary for the protection of our Revenue, on the South Coast of the Island. Within the past few years it has become a recognised fact that a regular system of smuggling has been carried on between our Southern ports and St. Pierre. The pernicious effects of this illicit trade is observable in the returns from the various outport collectors, and the evil has grown to such alarming proportions, that the Government has decided to put it down with a strong and vigorous hand. As I have stated, I estimate the necessary expenditure at \$1,273,654, and to meet this expenditure I propose in the Resolutions, already laid upon the table, to make certain alterations in the Tariff, which if acted upon will give a Revenue from Customs Returns of \$1,190,000.

To this will be added.	
Postal Revenue.....	26,500
Crown Lands.....	3,000
Licenses.....	3,500
Miscellaneous Sources.....	4,000
Sewerage on account Interest.....	3,225
Harbor Masters dues and Examiners fees.....	1,500
Light Dues.....	28,000
Rent of Dock.....	15,000
Interest on debt due by Railway Company.....	2,520
	87,245

This will give a Total amount of Revenue from all sources of \$1,277,245.

I estimate therefore that with ordinary reasonable imports and if no unexpected large demands be made on the Treasury during the year, there will be a balance to the credit of the Colony, according to the above figures, of \$3591.

In the above estimate is included a sum of \$3225 in connection with interest on certain Sewerage debentures. The cause of the difference between this sum and that of last year, requires this explanation. In the cancellation of the debentures by appropriation of the earnings of the Savings Bank to that purpose, the Government considered it desirable to cancel those debentures which were in the possession of the Savings Bank, and in order to make up the exact amount of \$100,000, it was necessary to take for cancellation \$4730 of Sewerage debentures. These debentures are not redeemable for a year or two, but, as they

were five per cents, it was thought advisable and convenient, for the reasons given to thus arrange the amount in the manner indicated, leaving the sum redeemed on these sewerage debentures to be the subject of arrangement and repayment, after the passing of the new Municipal Act. In the meanwhile the city will make a direct saving in the difference of percentage. The estimate of Expenditure which has been laid before the House may be exceeded, as I have observed, by some unlooked for event, calling for payment under Executive Responsibility, but as far as foresight in connection with Governmental finance can predict, I see no reason to fear that the Revenue from the Customs and other sources will be insufficient to meet all the legitimate demands that may be made upon it. I have already referred to indebtedness of the last year up to the 31st of December, as shown by the Treasury Account which you have before you. In considering the amount of \$496,000 I would again call the attention of hon. members to the fact, that this sum does not represent the whole indebtedness of last year. There is a balance yet unaccounted for, because, for the reasons I have given, I have been unable to prepare the accounts to lay before you. It is impossible to say definitely at present what that balance will be, as the accounts have not as yet been all forwarded to us from the outposts. Whatever the amount may be, the Government will feel justified in asking the Legislature to make it good by special provision in a Loan Bill. It has been a large expenditure and was called for by the urgency of the occasion. Hon. members will remember the feelings of uneasiness which existed during last autumn, and the necessity, which the whole community recognised, of the Government grappling earnestly and vigorously with the situation, to prevent that dire distress and destitution, nay, perhaps starvation, that many portions of the Island were threatened with. The occasion was considered by the Government exceptional, and, in view of the circumstances, they will feel justified in asking for exceptional legislation. In dealing with the amount of indebtedness caused by the expenditure for relief works, we must take into our consideration the amount of valuable work in the construction of new and useful lines of roads, and the repairs done on certain main lines, which we received as a set off for that expenditure. These will bear fruit in the future, so that, though the expenditure has been large, and for the purpose of meeting destitution, we cannot look upon it as spent like poor relief or other portions of the Poor Grant without the expectation of any return to the Colony. The sum of \$180,000 was taken from the Fishery Award as a temporary loan, in order to meet a portion of this expenditure caused by these relief works. Had the Government not utilized this amount it would have been compelled to pay six per cent interest on its overdrawn account in the Bank, and such an expenditure would have to that extent increased the indebtedness of the Colony. I would, therefore, propose that this temporary loan be authorized to be taken from the Fishery Award, and placed to the credit of the current account of the Colony. This, with the Dry Dock credit balance, will reduce the indebtedness of the Colony on 31st Dec. from \$496,000 to about \$300,000; and this last mentioned sum, together with certain exceptional expenditures to be provided for, will have to be met in the manner I have suggested, as I have, in the estimate of expenditure which I have now submitted only provided for the present year's ordinary current expenses.

The Board of Works Department is indebted to the Commercial Bank in an amount of about \$50,000, and this sum has principally arisen on account of the over-expenditures in St. John's for past year's expenses and current year's liabilities, which will be arranged and liquidated in and by the proposed Municipal Bill, now before a Select Committee of this House. In bringing my observations to a close for the present, and asking your indulgence for any imperfections or omissions in my statement which the large and exceptional expenditure of the year and the necessary delay in the compilation of statements and rendering of accounts, have caused, I would remind hon. members that in this country there is only one source from which our Revenue can be derived, and that is by what is known as indirect taxation—by the collection of duties on goods imported into the Colony as they pass through the Custom House. We have to seek amongst these imported articles for the means of raising a revenue, and guided by our experience seek for that revenue from these articles of import which will be best adapted to provide that revenue, having due regard and care to protect the necessities of life from bearing an unnecessary share of the burden. Direct taxation we cannot at present resort to, principally because the many items, such as settled income and real estate, which bear the burden of direct taxation in other countries, are wanting in this Colony.

I would assure hon. members that this question of taxation and the means of raising sufficient funds to carry on the public business of the Colony and to honorably meet all our obligations, has given me a considerable amount of anxiety, and after careful consideration I have been compelled, no matter how distasteful it may be to myself or with what reluctance I have to approach you, to adopt the course suggested by the resolutions, of raising the duties upon certain imported articles. In doing so, I have, after weeks of careful and thoughtful study, succeeded in placing those duties

on those articles which will bear as lightly on the laboring classes as possible, having regard to the object in view. And in submitting these resolutions for the consideration of the representatives of the people assembled in this House, I do so with the sincere regret that the condition of the country's finances should call for the course I now adopt. In view of the facts with which we are all acquainted, and of the necessity of supporting the honor and credit of the Colony, I trust that hon. members will deal with the subject as a whole, rather than with the individual items of which it is composed, believing that, whatever cause for objection may be on the face of the subject, I have in common with themselves, only a duty to perform to the Colony and its people, and that objection I would if I could be as willing to remove as they are to discover and point it out. I thank the House for the patient and attentive hearing it has given me on this, the most important subject that can occupy the House, and in conclusion I would say that if any addition or reduction be considered necessary by this House, in the duties now proposed to be levied upon the articles mentioned in the Tariff Table, an Indemnity Bond will be taken and the amount due to or owing by the Government settled after the Committee on Ways and Means has reported. I would now propose for the consideration of the House the following

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolved.—That the Act passed in the forty-ninth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, entitled, "An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain duties on Goods, Wares and Merchandise imported into this Colony and its Dependencies" be repealed: Provided always that all Bonds given and payments made under the said Act, or any of them, are hereby confirmed and declared valid, and nothing herein contained shall be construed to affect the same.

Resolved.—That the following table of duties on Goods, Wares and Merchandise imported into this Colony and its Dependencies as well as on Local Distillation and the Table of Exemptions be enacted:—

TABLE OF DUTIES.

Ale, porter, cider and perry, the gallon.....	\$0 20
Animals, viz.:—Calves, pigs and sheep, each.....	0 30
Horses, Mares, &c., each.....	3 00
Apples, the barrel.....	0 40
Apples, (dried) the pound.....	0 02
Bacon, hams, tongues, smoked beef and sausages, the hundredweight.....	2 50
Beef, pigs' heads, feet and hocks, salted and cured, the barrel of two hundred pounds.....	1 00
Biscuit and bread, (not including sweet or fancy biscuits) the cwt.....	0 20
Butter, oleomargarine, and other compounds representing butter, the cwt.....	2 00
Casks, empty, second hand 45 gallons and under each.....	0 45
Casks, empty, second hand, over 45 gallons, each.....	1 45
Cask staves, second hand, manufactured, capable of making casks of 45 gallons and upwards per 100.....	5 75
Cask staves, second hand, manufactured capable of making casks under 45 gallons, per 100.....	1 40
Cheese, the cwt.....	2 50
Chocolate and cocoa, the pound.....	0 06
Cigars, ten per cent. ad valorem and the M.....	4 00
Coffee, green, the pound.....	0 05
Coffee, roasted or ground, the pound.....	0 07
Coals, imported or brought into the ports of St. John's, Harbor Grace and Carbonear, the ton.....	0 30
Confectionery, not including confectioners' ornaments the cwt.....	5 50
Feathers and feather beds, the pound.....	0 07
Fish, viz.:—Codfish and haddock, salted, save as hereinafter exempt, the quintal of 112 lbs.....	1 50
Flour, the barrel.....	0 30
Fruit, dried, (excepting dried apples) currants, raisins, &c., the lb.....	0 03
Indian meal, the barrel.....	0 25
Lumber, one inch thick, and so in proportion for any greater thickness the M.....	2 50
Oats, the bushel.....	0 05
Lumber, grooved, tongued or planed, 1 inch thick and so in proportion for any greater thickness.....	4 00
Molasses, the gallon.....	0 07
Oatmeal, the barrel of 200 lbs.....	0 30
Oil, kerosene, the gallon.....	0 06
Peas, the barrel.....	0 30
Pork, the barrel of 200 lbs.....	1 75
Salt, in bulk, the ton.....	0 20
Shingles and laths, the M.....	0 60
Spirits, viz.:—Brandy and other spirits, not herein defined or enumerated, and not exceeding the strength of proof by Sykes Hydrometer, and so in proportion for any greater strength than the strength of proof, the gallon.....	\$2 40
All other spirits of greater strength than forty-three per cent. over proof, shall be deemed to be undefined spirits, and be subject to duty accordingly, the gallon.....	2 40
Rum—not exceeding the strength of proof by Sykes' Hydrometer, and so in proportion for any greater strength than the strength of proof, the gallon.....	1 65
Gin, not exceeding the strength of proof by Sykes' Hydrometer, and so in proportion for any greater strength than the strength of proof, the gallon.....	1 80
Whiskey, not exceeding the strength of proof by Sykes'	

THE COLONIST

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P. R. BOWERS,
Editor of the Colonist, St. John's Nfld.

Daily Colonist,

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 1887.

THE PRESENT TAXES ON FOOD.

Our readers will find the speech of the hon. Receiver General published in full on the second and third pages of to-day's COLONIST. In his opening remarks he admits that the financial affairs of the colony are "far from satisfactory," and consequently "it behoves those amongst us who are thoughtful for the future, to seriously consider our present financial status and the causes that have led to it." This we take to be an invitation to consider the several questions involved in the revenues and expenditure of the country; and in the hope of assisting in the solution of the difficulties of "the situation," and not in a captious spirit or mere love of opposition we offer the following observations. The chief cause of the unsatisfactory financial affairs at the present time, is due to the partial failure of the fisheries; and the consequent large expenditure for relief, which left not only an empty treasury but a large deficit at the end of the financial year. The failure of our great staple industry, and the low prices, have caused a depression that was felt by the trade of the country generally; and the receipts from several departments, such as postal service, crown lands, licenses, fines and forfeitures, which, with the reduced amount of interest on the fishery award, show a considerable falling off. Under periods of depression the receipts from the customs' duties are less, but owing to the increase, we presume, in the tariff in 1886, the receipts show an increase of \$18,453.38 over 1885. The Receiver General, by increasing the tariff, estimates that the customs will yield \$1,190,000, or \$27,964.91 over 1886. If the trade of the country can bear this amount of duties on imports (and of this there are well-founded reasons to think to the contrary), yet the tariff should have been readjusted, so as to give such branches of industry as could be carried on here, with advantage to the colony, a chance of revival; and the tax upon the chief articles, or necessities of life, should be lessened or taken off altogether, in order that the fishermen and other laborers can live—can keep body and soul together, without chasing the Premier and members of parliament for pauper relief. One of the highest functions of statesmanship is the amelioration of the condition of the people of a country; and one of the surest ways to accomplish this is the enactment of such laws as ultimately tend towards the production of the necessities of life at the lowest possible cost. What do we find our friends on the treasury benches doing in the proposed tariff? Instead of cheapening the necessities of life they are imposing an enormous tax on potatoes and other vegetables. Large numbers of people are still in distressed circumstances after last year's partial failure of the fisheries, and hence this is not a time, above all others, when a tax should be put upon one of the principal articles of the poor man's food. Such a policy is well calculated to increase the demands for pauper relief by adding to the numbers of the already destitute. Last year the number of bushels of potatoes imported to March 20th, before the duty of 5 cents per bushel was imposed was 31,707; and from that date till the end of January, 97,508 bushels, which paid a duty of \$4,875.44. If the tax of 10 cents a bushel or 30 cents a barrel be not reduced then the sum of \$12,000 will be wrung out of the poorest class of people, for potatoes, during the current year. It is little wonder that the Newfoundland fisherman cannot compete favorably with the Canadian fisherman, when he has to pay 66 cents a bushel for his potatoes, while the latter buy for 20 to 30 cents a bushel. This tax of 10 cents a bushel is as bad as the blight, and should be removed.

THE "SORCERER."

The performance of this opera, which has been under careful rehearsal for some weeks, will be performed on Thursday evening next in the Star of the Sea hall. The story told in the "Sorcerer" is one of fantastic interest, and comical weirdness. Alexis Pointdextre, is betrothed to Aline Sangazure and, being a youth of spirit and noble illusions, desires to benefit the human race by making love a democratic leveller of rank, so that rich and poor and simple might love each other and have their affections returned, without society, with its censorious eye and judgment impartial being to damn what was not improper as being a sham. And to effect his purpose he engages the services of Mr. W. A. Wells, by

trade a sorcerer and inventor and sole owner of the wonderful love-at-first-sight philter, which possesses the power of making those who drink of the preparation, madly love the first male or female of the species they may chance to see. The result of a distribution of a quantity of the mixture amongst the inhabitants of the native village of the noble Alexis, is to arrange very speedily a combination of the most incongruous mashers of young and old, fair and ugly, noble and lowly, and amongst others the beautiful and imperious Aline, the betrothed of Alexis Pointdextre, is compelled to lay her plighted affection at the feet of Dr. Daly, the rector of the parish. Other inconvenient and disagreeable combinations are brought about, and Mr. Wells is requested to remove the spell, and after some persuasion, and at the request of numerous friends kindly consents to sacrifice himself to Ahrimanes and thus restore all to their original feelings and affections. There are many scenes of appalling excitement in the opera, especially the incantation where Mr. Wells calls spirits from the vasty deep to strengthen the power of his love philter, the situation is impressive with its Faust-like accessories of colored fire and attendant fiends. The closing scene where Mr. Wells departs and removes the hedious charm is also comically gruesome.

The several characters will be represented as follows:—Sir Marmaduke Pointdextre, (Mr. John Barron). Alexis, his son, (Dr. Rendell). Dr. Daley, (Mr. George Shea). Counsel, (Mr. Cornick). J. W. Wells the Sorcerer, (Mr. Charles Hutton). Lady Langazure, (Miss Cormack). Aline, her daughter, (Miss Fisher). Dame Partlett, (Mrs. T. N. Molloy). Constance, her daughter, (Miss Shea), peasants, etc., chorus.

THE POLICE COURT.

MURRAY'S MERRY MONDAY MORNING.

The usual crowd outside the court house yesterday morning was considerably augmented by a number of arrivals from the seal fishery. The day was warm and sunshiny, and whilst some leaned gracefully over the stone parapet others lounged in easy attitudes against the court house wall. The one and only topic discussed was the safe arrival of the steamer *Eagle* from the ice, and the joy her appearance, as she sailed through the narrows, brought to hundreds of homes in the city. His honor arrived about 10.30, and the assembly moved within doors to await the events of the day. His honor did not appear in court till eleven o'clock, and meanwhile the crowd outside the bar were allowed to gaze in awe on the favored few who hung around the throne. William sat quietly beside the witness-box and joined not in the trifling conversation indulged in by the head constable and two or three legal striplings. Four or five of the police force, who had business with the cases of the day, hung round the base-burner and chatted, in low tones, on prospective raids on "shebeens." The clock over the dias was not going, but at three minutes past eleven, by the gold watch of a member of parliament present, his worship came through the door. The Egyptian mummy attitude in which William sat for the last half hour was suddenly changed, and he rose to his feet with a bound. As the judge reached the bench "Silence! hats off!" was shouted, and all but the man on crutches, who was sitting on the little seat in the corner, obeyed the command. Not that the afflicted one scorned the law or wished to indulge in any contempt for the court, but his hand was pinioned to his side by the crowd. A look of agony stole over his face as he saw he was being noticed by the lynx-eyed head constable, but at this moment a kind hearted orphan who was present saw his plight, and having experienced the lack of human sympathy himself, fought his way to his side and took off his hat. The prisoners of the morning had previously been ranged in front of the bar, and No. 1 was now called forward. He was a comely and graceful youth, and had waltzed this mundane sphere for twenty-nine winters. He was charged with having taken a trifle too much on Saturday night, but as he was otherwise quiet he was let go. No. 2 was a young man of twenty, and feeling his bounding muscle longing for a shindy on Saturday evening he tackled one of the police officers. He looked rather sheepish on being charged with the offence. He endeavored to mumble some defence but his worship cut him short with \$4 or fourteen days. No. 3 was charged with having been drunk and disorderly, and with creating a general disturbance. He gave his age as twenty-six, and looked a quiet and inoffensive young man. He is the hero of his neighborhood, and five or six schoolboys who indulge in such glorious, yellow covered literature as "Roaring Ned, or the Terror of the Plains," or "Small-pox Dave, the Squint-eyed Child of Destiny," followed him with longing eyes during the trial. His honor heard patiently through to the end, when he imposed \$2 or seven days. No. 4 was a knight of the last and avl, and was charged with noisy interference with the Salvation Army. His worship construed the prisoner's noise into solid religious fervor and let the young man go. He wiped

his eyes with the remains of a once respectable scarlet silk handkerchief and departed with the swiftness of a custom-house officer going to draw his quarter's salary. No. 5 was a veteran votary at the shrine Bacchanalian and hailed for 52 years old. He was charged with being drunk while in charge of a horse on Saturday last. He belonged down the shore, and had come to town to dispose of some eggs and other produce, and to buy raisins for the Easter pudding, he took a trifle and succumbed. He denied that he was drunk but his worship happened to see him on Saturday in passing and corroborated the officers' statement. His worship being a just and conscientious man did not consider that he could be judge and witness at the same time, so the prisoner was set free. He made a sweeping bow to the throne as he passed, and picking up his well worn cap from the bench behind him he elbowed his way through the crowd and meandered from view. The next case called was between two ladies from Delahanty's lane. A gazelle-eyed beauty, with a Piccadilly fringe streaming over her brow, was charged by the woman next door with using insulting language towards her, and making some horrid threats. The plaintiff, on being called to the witness stand, told a story replete with remarks and doings so filthy that they would have done credit to the *Pall Mall Gazette* disclosures, or the Campbell divorce scandal. The woman at the bar is the daughter-in-law to what his worship called a "chimney doctor," and has a record worthy of a five cent New York Bowery Theatre. She constantly interrupted the evidence that was being given, till her own turn came. His worship listened patiently to both sides, and bound both parties to keep the peace for six months, or, in default, to pay a hundred dollars. The general opinion expressed by all the parties who heard the case was that it would not be much harm if the lane of Delahanty was cleaned out. The court adjourned at noon.

(continued from first page.)

LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

FRIDAY, April 1.

MR. MURPHY--(con)--A warden should be appointed for every fifteen or twenty miles of coast, and receive copies of all fishery laws for his information, and he would receive about \$20 a year for his services, having been sworn to discharge his duties faithfully. Codfish has been bred successfully in the United States, and if and if we had

A HATCHERY IN EACH OF OUR LARGE BAYS that the too frequent use of bultows has exhausted we might again in three or four years stock them with fish. It is a well known fact the cod remain all the winter in the centre of some of our large bays, and it is also well known that it is not fish very fond of migrating large distances when it gets its food without doing so. These are the opinions of men of science gathered by observation and experience, and I would ask hon. gentlemen here this evening not to consider me, who in this matter, am inexperienced, and also not regard the fact of my being a junior member of the house, but to have regard to the facts I am stating and the authorities upon which I advance them. Those authorities are the fishery commissioners of the Dominion and the United States. Formerly

CODFISH OVA could not be hatched, and the reason of this was that the salt water formed an acid with the zinc troughs in which they were laid, which poisoned the ova. The difficulty was got over within the last two years by plating the zinc troughs with silver, and 300,000,000 young codfish were placed in the waters of the United States last year. It is indeed remarkable that outsiders should be able to teach us so much concerning the importance and value of our fisheries. I append below some figures of great importance, taken from the report of the Canadian fishery bureau.

Total value fish, Dominion.....	\$17,720,000
Nova Scotia, total value.....	8,280,000
Total value cod, Dominion.....	4,530,000
P. E. Island, lobster value.....	500,000
Salmon, total value Dominion....	1,260,000
Herring, total value Dominion....	1,470,000

The value of Canada's fishery, twenty years ago, that is before the establishment of the bureau, was not a third of what it was in 1885, viz.—\$3,200,000. If we look at Prince Edward Island, which has not more than 1/16th of our coast line we find the people there earn \$500,000 worth of lobsters, while we, with twenty times the facilities, earn but \$82,000 worth. Both those figures are for 1885. By looking at the cost of the fishing service in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, I find that the figures are:—

Nova Scotia—Fishery officers salaries and disbursements.....	\$17,503.45
Fish breeding.....	4,610.00
Total fish service.....	\$22,114.00

New Brunswick—Fishery officers salaries and disbursements.....\$14,892.87
Fish breeding.....2,943.98
By reference to the same report I find that throughout the Dominion 112,000,000 ova of different fishes were collected, from which 81,067,000 young fish were hatched and put in the water. I find that in Nova Scotia 21,000,000 young fish were placed in the water at a cost of \$4,610.81. Here, Mr. Speaker, is a matter upon which the government may make themselves popular. By granting the small sum of \$4,000 or \$5,000 they can establish a hatchery for codfish at the bottom of

the bays with fish and win the gratitude of the thousands of fishermen now starving throughout the country. But if, sir, they refuse to do this let the punishment be upon their own heads, for the fishermen shall not be unmindful of it.

(to be continued.)

Correspondence.

The Editor of this paper is not responsible for the opinions of correspondents.

OPENING OF THE COURT AT HOLYROOD.

(To the Editor of the Colonist.)

SIR,—A line from a casual correspondent may not be uninteresting to your numerous readers on the business and general out-look of affairs in Holyrood. The dull monotony which usually surrounds our court house was dispelled yesterday by a lively throng who gathered to listen to the business of the day. His honor, Judge Prowse, presiding. Constable Sparks appeared to the front, donned in his best uniform, and gracefully opened the court. Constable Hynes preferred a charge against a gentleman from the Harbor Grace Junction. This was the only business of the day. It does not appear by this that we are the lawless, reckless individuals which we were painted some time ago in some of the St. John's press. The long disputed sheep question between Mrs. Duff and Mr. Hickey was finally settled in Mrs. Duff's favor. In the evening the constable and Sergeant Oliphant marched down to Harbor Main to capture these notorious sheep, in which they succeeded and brought them back to Mrs. Duff. The old lady seemed so overjoyed on the recovery of her lost sheep that, with all the ease and eloquence so familiar with the Irish race, she sang and danced *The Boy in the Gap*. People engaged in bank fisheries are hard at work. The late news received of steamer *Eagle* has calmed excited homes.

I am, sir, yours very truly,
Holyrood, April 8, 1887. TOM.

LETTER FROM BAY OF ISLANDS.

(To the Editor of the Colonist.)

DEAR SIR,—It is seldom that your readers hear from the Bay of Islands, as to how or what is being done during our period of isolation; a little information may be of interest just now.

The sudden advance in the price of herring last fall, the favorable weather, and the arrival of a number of vessels from Nova Scotia and elsewhere, were the means of enlivening trade with the result that all our fishermen did well. Those now employed catching herring are busy averaging three barrels per net daily.

Our enterprising neighbor, Mr. Thomas Carter, is building a fine schooner, of about 70 tons, suitable for the Bank fishery and general trade. He hopes to have her built early this spring. She is a handsome model, and will prove a fast sailer. During last year he built a fine brigantine, which has since been purchased by Messrs. J. J. & L. Furlong, of St. John's. He also has built, and will launch the coming spring, a fine modelled vessel of nearly 200 tons. The frame of the latter vessel is of native juniper, planked with hardwood and copper fastened. These several vessels have been built by the celebrated builder Mr. William McKay, of Shelbourne, N.S., who Mr. Carter brought here, and constructed wholly of the timber of this part of the country. Mr. Justice Pinsent, while here on circuit last year, visited Mr. Carter's ship-yard, and referred in a complimentary manner, to Mr. C's enterprise, adding that these industries, deserve the utmost encouragement.

Mr. Condon will launch, during the ensuing spring, a fine schooner, which has been purchased for a firm in Burin, and intended for the Bank fishery.

The art of dory building was introduced by Mr. Carter, who engaged a builder, from Shelbourne, N.S. He has built a number of dories which bankers highly approved of, and were readily purchased. This industry is now carried on by the natives. The "Pioneer" dory is the dory.

These different enterprises are the means of making the young men of this Bay good mechanics; they, in a few years, will turn out work which will bear comparison to that of other countries. Such men should be encouraged by protection from the legislature.

I am happy to add that poverty is almost unknown here this winter, which is fortunately the exception, as for several winters past a great amount of want was felt, the people having to be relieved at the expense of our several public grants.

The weather up to this time has been exceedingly cold and stormy, a change is shortly hoped for. Apologizing for the length of this letter, I remain, yours respectfully,

BLO-MI-DON.

Bay of Islands, Mar. 5th, 1887.

The attention of the readers of the COLONIST, particularly fishermen, is drawn to the practical speech published in to-day's paper, and made by Mr. Murphy in favor of a fishery bureau during the debate on the petitions presented by the fishermen of St. John's and elsewhere. Its value consists in the information it contains, and the facts and figures adduced in support of a Bureau.

NEWS OF STRS. LEOPARD AND POLYNIA.

DIPHTHERIA AT CHANNEL.

The steamer *Leopard* arrived here last evening with a full trip; says the steamer *Polynia* passed out, probably loaded; no news from the *Mastiff*; no ice in sight. Diphtheria here, in two or three families; two children of Mr. Horman's carried off.

LOCAL AND OTHER ITEMS.

The sailing of the steamer *Plover* has been postponed till to-morrow morning.

The attractions to night are: the Mikado at the T. A. Hall, and the juvenile concert at the Athenæum.

SORCERER.—A dress rehearsal will take place to-morrow Wednesday evening at half-past seven o'clock sharp.

The concert at the Athenæum hall last night was well attended and the several performances were good. Want of space to-day, prevents a more lengthened report.

As an evidence of the shortness of the catch of seals in St. John's this spring, "flippers," which other years could be had for the sake of asking, cannot be procured this spring for less than five cents a piece.

The variety minstrel troupe will appear on Tuesday, April 21st, in St. Patrick's hall. Tickets can be had from the ladies of the St. Vincent de Paul and Christian Brothers' boys, at one shilling each, all over the hall.

We are requested to inform our readers that the art exhibition will not open until the 23rd inst. In consequence of this all prize work may be sent in up to the 18th inst. It is requested that intending competitors will not confuse these dates.

The steamer *Portia*, Captain Dawson, arrived from New York and Halifax at 11.30 last night. She left the former port at 8 p.m. on Wednesday last, and the latter at 8 p.m. on Saturday. She brought a large freight, and will be ready to sail again on Thursday next. The following is a list of her passengers:—

From New York—Mrs. and Miss Brotherton, Messrs. R. Scott, W. G. Gosling, W. J. Jobin, F. W. Finlay, F. D. Lilly, G. Allen. From Halifax—M. Goderaux, W. A. Munn; 5 in steerage.

The young man who has chosen to sell the reserved seat tickets for "Mikado" assures us that he shall have his share of work in taking money, and he believes that in size the parquette will prove small enough for its patrons.

Said he: "A person known to me wishing to make money easily, bid twenty-five pounds for the house," but of course he was told to "sit down." Considering the above it would be advisable for all to have "ready money," so that there will be no crushing, waiting, and such like inconveniences at the Total Abstinence hall to-night. Be in time.

A fire was discovered in the *Mercury* office about 1.30 this morning. The alarm was soon given, and the firemen were prompt. The flames were quickly subdued, but not before some damage was done to windows, doors, and a good deal of printing apparatus, such as rollers, ink, etc. The fire was discovered in the press-room, and it is conjectured it was started in a corner where a barrel of oil was standing. Whether the fire originated accidentally or maliciously, is not known, but there is a strong suspicion in the latter direction, owing to the fact that a drawer containing money was standing near the oil barrel. It is supposed that in hunting for the drawer in the dark some person or persons, who had entered for that purpose, dropped a match, which communicated with the oil.

BIRTHS.

WALKER—On the 9th inst., the wife William Walker, of a son.

DEATHS.

WHITE—On Monday, after a short illness, Jane, the beloved wife of Thomas White, aged 53 years. She leaves a husband and six children to mourn the loss of a kind good wife and mother. Her funeral will take place from her late residence, Casey's lane, on Wednesday at 2 o'clock; friends are requested to attend. She was a member of St. Ann's Sodality.

CABILL—This morning, James Cabill, aged 81 years, his funeral will take place to-morrow (Wednesday) at 2.30 p.m., from No. 10, Hayward Avenue; friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend.—[Boston papers please copy.]

HOWLETT—At Petty Harbor, on the 11th inst., Luke Benedict, second son of Thomas and Ellen Howlett, aged 28 years. Funeral to take place on to-morrow (Wednesday), at 2.30 o'clock; friends and acquaintances please accept this notice.

On Sale by the Subscriber.

10 barrels Cut Leaf Sugar
5 barrels Primrose Sugar
10 barrels Canary Sugar
8 barrels Scotch Sugar
20 casks Kerosene Oil

J. J. O'REILLY,

800 Water Street, 45 & 48 King's Road.